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## **Sen. Cropsey introducing legislation to rein in 'out-of-control' Board of State Canvassers**

**LANSING** – Sen. Alan Cropsey today announced legislation is being drafted to address an out-of-control Board of State Canvassers that has repeatedly violated the law and disenfranchised voters by overstepping its authority and making politically charged decisions.

The legislation would transfer the duties of the canvassers to the Bureau of Elections under the Secretary of State.

A recent attempt by the Legislature to address this problem was derailed when Gov. Granholm vetoed House Bill 4275. Cropsey said he's not daunted by the threat of the governor's veto pen, hoping the governor will eventually side with voters when it comes to protecting their rights.

"It is outrageous and inconceivable that the Board of Canvassers continues to thumb its nose at the law and ignore the advice of non-partisan legal counsel and the Bureau of Elections by refusing to approve valid voter petitions," said Cropsey, R-DeWitt. "Moving the duties to the Bureau of Elections will protect the people of Michigan who wish to petition their government for change. The bureau is a responsible and professional organization that has proven it can do its job without playing politics with citizens' rights."

Cropsey added that because of an attempt by some board members to promote their own political agendas, citizens have been forced to go to court to get their rights reinstated, resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial costs.

"It is one thing for the board to make a mistake and have it overruled by the courts, but to do it again months later is a sure sign of the need for reform," said Cropsey, a former board member. "The Flint Journal put it best when it noted the board has a 'patronizing arrogance and corruptly exalted view of its powers.'"

The Flint Journal also wrote the board is "...once again trying to assert its own political prejudices into its statutory duties," and, "One need not be a friend of any of these initiatives to be aghast at the canvassers' attempts at taking administrative control over grass-roots political movements."

Other newspapers have editorialized about the board's transgressions as well.

The Detroit Free Press wrote: "The board acted in the face of a clear attorney general's opinion..." and, "...it is only creating a procedural hurdle that forces people into court to secure their rights."

The Lansing State Journal wrote: "The Board of State Canvassers proved again why it is a superfluous piece of Michigan government," and, "...the board isn't necessary; its work can be done by appointed elections staff and courts when matters are disputed."

The Detroit News also editorialized during the 2004 election cycle that the board's actions: "...cheat Michigan voters of their democratic choice."

Cropsey's legislation has the support of Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema who has given the green light to moving the bill this fall.

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**Comments from Sen. Cropsey will be available for download this afternoon on the Senate Majority Audiowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop).**